

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). The drawings have been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato, et al. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to define the valve disc as being movable between a first position where the valve disc contacts the first and second lands and forms a clearance with the entire support surface and a second position where the valve disc contacts the first and second lands and the support surface.

Kato, et al. in Figure 7 illustrates a clearance with a portion of the support surface but Kato, et al. cannot be moved to a position where the inner and outer lands and the support surface are in contact with each other.

Thus, Applicants believe Claims 1 and 11, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2-10, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, and Claims 12-20, which ultimately depend from Claim 11, are also believed to

patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 4-6a. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which include Figures 4-6a, replace the original sheets including Figures 4-6a.

Figure 4, please add reference numerals 60, 70, 72, 76, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112 and 114 along with their leader lines.

Figure 5, please add compression passages 134 and the leader line associated with reference numeral 134.

Figure 6, please add reference numerals 120, 126, 128, 140, 142, 144, 150, 152 and 154 along with their leader lines.

Figure 6a, please add reference numerals 120, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182 and 184 along with their associated leader lines.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)